

# Weekly Message Weekly Message



Greetings everyone,  
I hope you are staying warm and dry this winter week. We are off to the TDEA (www.tdea.org) convention in Houston this week and will see many of you there. This weekend will kick off our contest season with our South Padre Jr. Competition. Make sure to visit our web site to see schedules and results (www.DanceADTS.com).

Here are some thoughts for the day:

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**"Some days there won't be a song in your heart. Sing anyway."  
Emory Austin**

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**"The most important thing is to be whatever you are without shame."  
Rod Steiger, actor**

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**"Love is what's left of a relationship after all the selfishness has been removed." Cullen Hightower**

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**"I can give you a six word formula for success: Think things through - then follow through." Edward V. Rickenbacker**

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Since contest season is kicking off this month, everyone is thinking about being "Number One." This is a reprint of a passage written by Vince Lombardi but modified by myself to fit dance/drill team. I hope that it is timely and effective this week.

Have a great week, and, as always, please *keep in touch*.

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*Sincerely,*

*Joyce E. Pennington, Pres. CEO*

*American Dance/Drill Team*

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# ***What it Takes to be Number One***

by Vince Lombardi

Revised for dance/drill teams by Joyce E. Pennington

Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all the time thing. You don't win once in a while. You don't do things right once in awhile. You do them right all the time. Winning is a habit. Unfortunately, so is losing.

There is no room for second place. There is only one place in my mind and that is first place. In college football there is a second place bowl game. But it is a game for losers played by losers. It is, and always has been, an American seal to be first in anything we do and to win and to win and to win.

Every time a dancer goes to apply her talents, she's got to dance from the ground up and from the soles of her feet right up to her head. Every inch of her has to dance. Some girls dance with their heads, and that's OK. You have got to be smart to be number one in any business, but more important, you've got to dance with your heart--with every fiber of your body. If you're lucky enough to find a dancer with a lot of brains and a lot of heart, she's never going to leave a competition in second place.

Running a dance/drill team is no different from running any other kind of organization --a football team, an army, a political party, a business. The principles are the same. The object is to win--to beat the other guy. Maybe that sounds hard or cruel. I don't think it is.

It's a reality of life that dancers are competitive and the most competitive contests draw the most competitive dancers. That's why they are there--to compete. They know the rules and objectives when they enter the "game". The objective is to win--fairly, squarely, decently, by the rules--but to win.

And, in truth, I've never known a dancer worth her salt who in the long run, deep down in her heart, didn't appreciate the grind, the discipline. There is something in good people that really yearns for, needs, discipline and the harsh reality of head to head combat.